

REMARKS

As stated above, this Amendment Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.114 is being filed subsequent to a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee and in support of the Request for Continued Examination (“RCE”) (37 C.F.R. §1.114) which is filed concurrently herewith. Accordingly, Applicants note that pursuant to 37 CFR §1.313(a) no petition to withdraw the application from issue is required.

As indicated in the Notice of Allowability, all of the pending claims (i.e., claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 16, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 35-40, 43, 44, 46, 47, 51-56 and 80-119) had been allowed. By this Amendment, claims 98, 101, 107 and 108 are amended correcting typographical errors. No new matter has been added by this Preliminary Amendment.

Prior to examination on the merits, entry of the following Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants concurrently file herewith an Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying PTO-1449.

Applicants believe that all of the pending claims as herein amended are believed allowable for at least similar reasons as in the Notice of Allowance.

Amendment dated April 5, 2005

In response to Notice of Allowance of January 27, 2005

AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4253US2). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: April 5, 2005

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